



REPRESENTATIVE DAN ROACH 31ST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

- Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection
(*Ranking Member*)
- Education
- Finance
- Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
- Legislative Committee on Economic Development & International Relations

DISTRICT PHONE:

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OLYMPIA PHONE:

(360) 786-7846
(during session only)

LEGISLATIVE

TOLL-FREE HOTLINE:

1-800-562-6000

TDD HOTLINE FOR

THE HEARING IMPAIRED:

1-800-635-9993

ABOUT YOUR

REPRESENTATIVE

Currently serving his fourth term, Rep. Dan Roach, R-Bonney Lake, was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000.

If you would like to learn more about Rep. Roach, visit his website at:

www.housepublicans.wa.gov/Roach

REP. DAN ROACH

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

2008 SESSION REVIEW

Dear friends and neighbors,

The 60-day session of the 2008 legislative session adjourned March 13 and many of the bills that passed will soon become law.

I'm pleased to report progress on a number of issues important to you, such as tougher laws against identity theft, additional support for children with autism, honoring our veterans, and helping students struggling in school. This newsletter provides a brief look at these and other issues of the 2008 session.

I welcome your input on issues important to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Dan Roach

Dan Roach

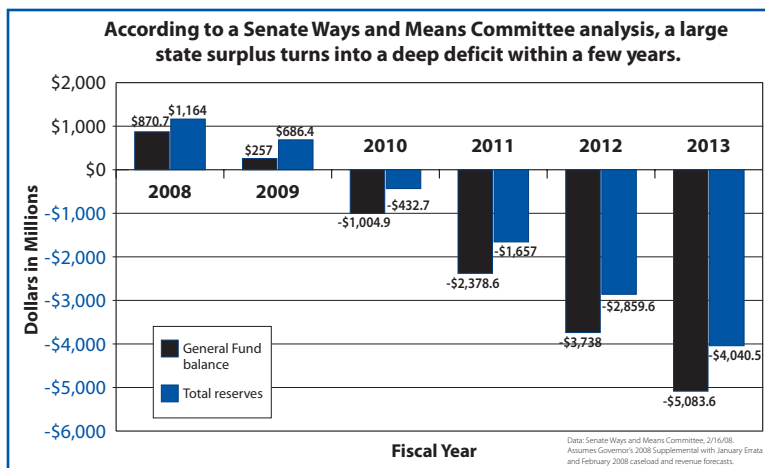


OPERATING BUDGET PLACES TAXPAYERS AT RISK

It took Washington 114 years, from statehood until 2003, to grow state spending to \$25.2 billion – and just four years to increase it by \$8.2 billion. The supplemental operating budget approved this year increases spending by another \$291 million. The problem with this is that our state is spending more money than it is taking in, and that means we could be facing a projected budget deficit next year of \$2.4 billion.

I'm very concerned that the supplemental operating budget approved this year may set the stage for tax increases next year, which the House Speaker

admitted he may consider. I will continue working to seek budget policies that will reduce spending and set priorities to protect taxpayers from future tax increases.



REP. DAN ROACH

2008 SESSION REVIEW

ROACH BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

Alternative fuels get tax break

Innovation is how we can help balance economic growth and environmental responsibility. A resident from the district approached me with an idea to offer an excise tax exemption for some alternative fuels. Under **House Bill 3188**, residents who use waste vegetable oil (better known as leftover grease from fast food restaurants) to make biodiesel for their vehicles will receive the tax exemption.

Honoring our veterans

Many brave soldiers left high school early in the Vietnam era to serve our country. **House Bill 1283** allows honorably discharged Vietnam veterans who left high school before graduation to receive a high school diploma. A diploma is very special recognition for students and it is something our brave soldiers did not receive because they were fighting for our freedom. I am very pleased the bill passed.

Persistence against ID theft pays off

After leading the charge for several years in the Legislature against identity theft, this year two of my bills to combat this crime were signed into law. Washington ranks ninth in the nation for most reported ID thefts.

House Bill 1273, a bill I prime sponsored, directs the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to develop a financial fraud and identity theft investigation and prosecution program. The program provides for the additional hiring of prosecutors and law enforcement officers to specifically address identity theft.

House Bill 2637 was recommended by LEGIT – Washington's Law Enforcement Group against Identity Theft – a group I am a member of, created by Attorney General Rob McKenna in 2006. This measure, which I co-sponsored, allows out-of-state testimony via affidavit instead of in-person. This speeds up the process to prosecute ID thieves and other criminals.

Another measure I supported which passed, **Senate Bill 5878**, requires police to make out a report when identity theft is reported, thus providing documentation that is helpful to victims dealing with credit card companies and others.

These bills are positive steps to help keep your identity safe, but I also encourage you to visit the Attorney General's Web site for more tips on protecting your identity: www.atg.wa.gov.

TRANSPORTATION PROJECT DELAYS BREAK PROMISE



When the Legislature approved a 9.5 cent increase in the gasoline tax, they did it with the promise to direct that money immediately into critical transportation projects across the state. Three years later, we are seeing major construction delays and the inability of state leaders to make good funding decisions. These delays are costing the state more money, and as a result, important projects, including those in the 31st District are at risk of being dropped off the list.

Locally, the Transportation Commission was authorized to proceed with the **HOT lane pilot project** on Highway 167 between Auburn and Renton. This program allows solo drivers to buy their way into the car-pool lanes on this highway. Tolls would vary between 50 cents and \$9, depending upon traffic.

PRESERVING LAKE TAPPS' WATER LEVEL



After nine years of hard work, the Lake Tapps Task Force continues to push for a solution to benefit local residents and others who enjoy the lake's beauty and recreational opportunities.

Puget Sound Energy approved the sale of Lake Tapps' water rights to Cascade Water Alliance on Feb. 29. Cascade Water Alliance has been working with the Lake Tapps Task Force. Community members, however, are concerned with behind-closed-door negotiations. The main concern is preservation of the lake levels, ensuring by selling the water rights, Lake Tapps is not left high and dry.

On March 25, hundreds of community members gathered at Lake Tapps Middle School to get the latest update and find what they could do to ensure a solution to the issue. I am working with my seatmates and the Department of Ecology to find the optimal water flows that will protect the lake level, especially through the summer months, and preserve property values.

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31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

MORE HELP NEEDED FOR FAMILIES WITH AUTISM

This session I again introduced a comprehensive autism package to give young children and families dealing with this affliction greater hope.

Autism now affects one in 150 children. As a father of an autistic child, I know the adversity and obstacles facing my son, and I believe we can and must do more to help.



I was pleased to support **Senate Bill 6743**, a measure which passed that directs the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to print and distribute an autism guidebook to help teachers and parents. I had sponsored similar legislation in the House.

My autism package would have provided the help families need and given autistic children every opportunity they deserve.

- **House Bill 2195** would have provided tax incentives for autism research and development.
- **House Bill 2290** would have provided educational options for students with autism.
- **House Bill 2253** would have created an "Autism Awareness" special license plate to help raise money for autism programs.
- **House Bill 3112** would have created a business and occupation tax credit for enhancing educational opportunities for children with disabilities.
- **House Bill 3152** would have provided enhanced training for teachers of autistic children.

These bills would have helped direct more money to autism research to find a cure and better treatment options. I look forward to working on this issue in the future.

HELP PROVIDED FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS

Senate Bill 6377 creates a grant program to expand career and technical education programs to prepare students for degrees or apprenticeships. It's expected this legislation would help lower a 25 percent school drop-out rate. The capital budget contains \$5.1 million to expand skills centers in Washington. The Legislature also provided \$18 million in learning assistance funds to help struggling students at risk of not graduating. For a full listing of education items funded in the budget, go to: www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Roach/EducationFunding.pdf.



Rep. Dan Roach speaks at an autism rally in the Capitol building. Roach believes the Legislature made progress this session, but he acknowledges more needs to be done to fight autism. The affliction impacts one in 150 children.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF A MISSED OPPORTUNITY

It was unfortunate that the Legislature failed to make any progress on property tax relief. Property taxes are increasing at levels that have already forced people from their homes, and they continue to be a major financial burden for many families.

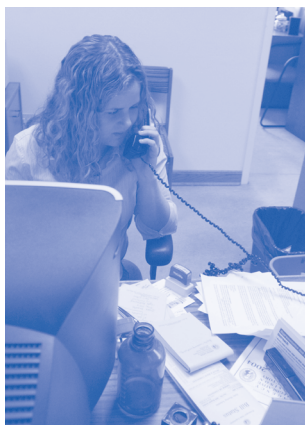
In November, during a special session, the Legislature reinstated the 1 percent voter-approved property tax levy cap (**Initiative 747**). This decision was a move in the right direction, but it is not enough to bring meaningful relief. Capping tax levies is just one problem – assessed home value and government spending are the two other major drivers of property tax increases. The Legislature addressed neither this session. During the interim, I'll be working on further options to provide tax relief home- and property owners need and deserve.

LEGISLATURE AVOIDS HEALTH CARE ISSUES. . . AGAIN

Most disappointing is that the Legislature failed to do anything this session to increase access to health care. **Senate Bill 6333** establishes a 13-member work group to conduct meetings around the state to provide health care information to citizens and seek public input on several health care reform proposals. This is the 16th health-care study in the past three years.

REP. DAN ROACH

TELE-TOWN HALLS A SUCCESS



During session, I had the opportunity to use a new technology to connect with constituents. On Feb. 12 and 18, I held tele-town halls to connect with residents of the 31st District. The turnout was overwhelming and more than 1,200 residents participated.

The tele-town hall allowed people to call in from the comfort of their homes, and the technology works much like a call-in radio show. The interactive telephone system allowed residents to listen live, ask questions and take

part in poll questions.

I understand that you are all very busy and can't always make it to a traditional town hall. This forum allowed us to connect, and I was able to hear your concerns - property taxes, health care and education, to name a few.

I will be holding another tele-town hall at a future date.

I'M HERE TO SERVE YOU!

I greatly appreciate the honor to serve as your state representative. I work for you throughout the year, not just when the Legislature is in session. If you have a question, comment or suggestion, please contact my 31st District office in Sumner, write a letter, or e-mail me. Here's my contact information:

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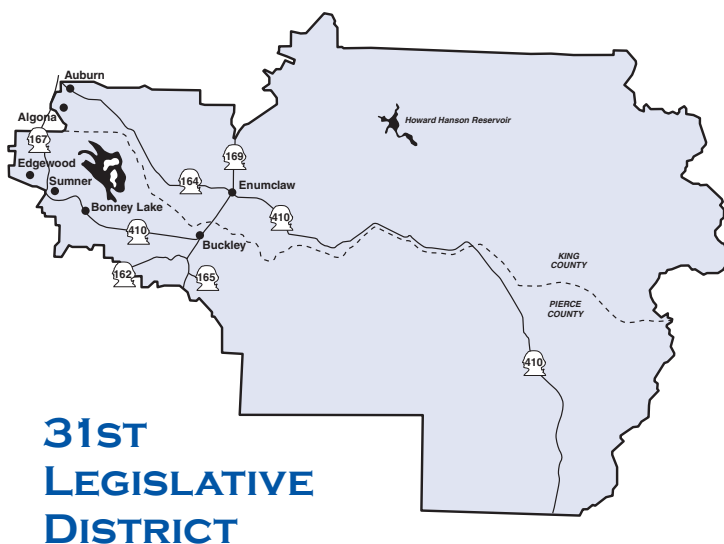
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